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Service To Nation

Few Americans ever heard the name of Desmond Fitzgerald, but they are indebted to this man.

Mr. Fitzgerald, who died July 23 at age 57, was head of clandestine operations for the Central Intelligence Agency. He gave up a lucrative law practice to join the CIA, which he served for 16 years. Earlier this month, his widow received the National Security Medal awarded to Mr. Fitzgerald for his high services rendered anonymously.

The public is not likely to learn more about the activities of Mr. Fitzgerald or his colleagues who serve their nation with dedication and anonymity. From time to time, however, Americans should bear in mind those who are soldiers of their country in a truly silent service.

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